

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 OC-05 CCO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 PM-04 H-02 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4772

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 18362

(CORRECTED COPY; PARAS 2, 3 & 4 INADVERTENTLY OMMITED IN ORIG.)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, EGEN, IT

SUBJECT: LABOR DEVELOPMENTS; AIRPORT STRIKE CANCELLED

1. UNEMPLOYMENT IN SOUTHERN REGIONS-THREE DAYS OF MEETING ORGANIZED BY THE FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU) TO DISCUSS THE INCREASINGLY SERIOUS UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN ITALY'S SOUTHERN REGIONS (MEZZOGIORNO) CULMINATED ON DECEMBER 12 WITH A MASSIVE RALLY IN NAPLES AND AN EIGHT HOUR GENERAL STRIKE IN THE INDUSTRIAL, AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL SECTORS. THE RALLY WAS ADDRESSED BY THE LEADERS OF THE THREE LARGE ITALIAN LABOR CONFEDERATIONS. LUCIANO LAMA OF CGIL SAID THE ECONOMIC CRISIS THREATENS TO INCREASE UNEMPLOYMENT BY SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND. MANY OBSERVERS INTERPRETED AN APPEAL BY LAMA TO POLITICIZE THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS AS A REFERENCE TO THE SO-CALLED HISTORIC COMPROMISE. THE PREVIOUS EVENING LAMA HAD SAID IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW: "IT IS NOW  
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TIME FOR THE PCI TO BECOME A PARTICIPANT IN THE GOVERNMENT." WHEN

CISL SECRETARY GENERAL BRUNO STORTI ATTEMPTED TO REFUTE LAMA'S SUGGESTION THAT THE ECONOMIC CRISIS CALLS FOR POLITICAL SOLUTIONS, HE WAS BOOED OFF THE PLATFORM BY APPROXIMATELY ONE THOUSAND EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY DEMONSTRATORS (MANIFESTO AND LOTTA CONTINUA) WHO HAD TAKEN UP FRONT ROW POSITIONS. UIL SECRETARY GENERAL RAFFAEL VANNI HAD ALSO BEEN HECKLED FOR ONE HALF HOUR PRIOR TO STORTI. VANNI WAS REPORTEDLY PEPPERED WITH APPLE CORES AND OTHER REMAINDERS OF THE ETRA-PARLIAMENTARIAN'S LUNCHES.

2. COMMENT: WITH STORTI AND VANNI AND THEIR RESPECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS NOW CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO DISTINGUISH THEMSELVES FROM THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED CGIL, WE EXPECT INCIDENTS SUCH AS THAT

WHICH OCCURRED IN NAPLES TO PROLIFERATE. SIMILAR TACTICS ARE USED BY THE ETRA-PARLIAMENTARY LEFT TO SILENCE NON-MARXIST REFORM ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE CATHOLIC GROUP COMUNIONE E LIBERAZIONE.

3. CIVIL AVIATION-LABOR UNREST CONTINUES IN THE CIVIL AVIATION FIELD ALTHOUGH A 24 HOUR STRIKE CALLED BY THE FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL CATEGORY UNION FULAT FOR DECEMBER 16 WAS CANCELLED.

4. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO CISL NATIONAL SECRETARY ROBERTO ROMEI, FULAT IS TIRED FROM THE YEAR-LONG STRUGGLE WITH ANPAC OVER THE ISSUE OF WHETHER PILOTS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A UNIFIED NATIONAL CONTRACT COVERING ALL WORKERS IN THE CIVIL AVIATION FIELD. WHILE THE PILOTS MAY ULTIMATELY HAVE TO CONCEDE TO UNITARY DEMANDS, ROMEI EXPECTS THEY WILL WIN THIS INITIAL BATTLE. HE IS CONCERNED THAT CGIL MAY NEGOTIATE A UNILATERAL COMPROMISE WITH THE PILOTS WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT ANPAC WOULD EVENTUALLY AFFILIATE WITH THE COMMUNIST DOMINATED UNION.

5. PIRELLI AGREEMENT-FOLLOWING THE MEDIATION OF LABOR MINISTER TOROS (DC), CCU NEGOTIATORS AGREED TO A COMPROMISE WITH MANAGEMENT OVER A DISPUTE ARISING FROM PIRELLI'S DESIRE TO LAY-OFF APPROXIMATELY 1400 WORKERS. PIRELLI AGREED TO RESCIND THE LAY-OFF NOTICES IN EXCHANGE FOR THE RIGHT TO ENCOURAGE SOME 700 WORKERS TO RETIRE EARLY. UTILIZING A LEGAL PROVISION, PIRELLI WILL BE ABLE TO RETIRE QUALIFIED MALE WORKERS AT 57 INSTEAD OF 60 YEARS OF AGE AND FEMALES AT 52 INSTEAD OF 55. PIRELLI WOULD PAY BENEFITS WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN EARNED IF THE CONCERNED WORKERS HAD

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BEEN EMPLOYED DURING SUCCEEDING THREE YEARS.

6. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF THE HIGH LABOR OVERHEAD IN ITALY PIRELLI FINDS IT ADVANTAGEOUS TO ENCOURAGE THESE WORKERS TO TAKE UP THE EARLY RETIREMENT OPTION. UP TO EIGHT PERCENT OF BASIC WAGES ARE ADDED TO OVERALL LABOR COSTS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL SECURITY AND OTHER BENEFITS. PIRELLI IS EXPERIENCING DIFFICUL-

TIES IN SUBSIDIARIES ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES SUCH AS MOLDED RUBBER  
FOOTWEAR AND SPORTS EQUIPMENT WHICH ARE BEING ADVERSELY AFFECTED  
BY CHEAP IMPORTS FROM SOUTH KOREA AND OTHER THIRD WORLD SUPPLIERS.  
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